

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 2, 2004. Claims 3 and 6 to 9 are in the application, of which Claim 8 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 3 and 6 to 8 have been amended herein, with Claims 3, 6 and 7 having been amended, *inter alia*, so as to depend from Claim 8. Claim 9 has been newly-added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

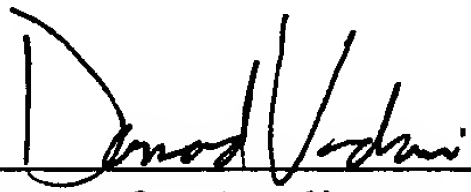
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 8 contains allowable subject matter.

Claim 8 was objected to for informalities. Applicants submit that the amendments made to Claim 8 have obviated the grounds of objection.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Damond E. Vadnais
Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
DEV/vc

DC_MAIN 167716v1